

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, UR, CA
SUBJECT: HOUSE OF COMMONS MOTION SEEKS ATTENDANCE OF GOC
AT SHCHARANSKY TRIAL

REF: USNATO 2231

1. ON MARCH 2 WITHOUT DEBATE OR COMMENT, HOUSE OF COMMONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED FOLLOWING MOTION WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MEMBER DOUGLAS ROCHE: QUOTE: THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO APPOINT AN OFFICIAL OBSERVER AT THE TRIAL OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY ON CHARGES OF TREASON SO THAT THE WIDE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CONCERNED PEOPLE CAN BE ASSURED THAT JUSTICE IS DONE IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS CASE AND, FURTHER, THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPEAT ITS OFFER TO GIVE IMMEDIATE LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS TO MR. SHCHARANSKY. END QUOTE.

2. DURING SUBSEQUENT GENERAL QUESTION PERIOD, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION JOE CLARK INQUIRED WHETHER PM OR SECRETARY
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OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WOULD MEET PERSONALLY WITH MRS. SHCHARANSKY. IN RESPONSE, PRIME MINISTER SIDESTEPED THIS QUESTION BY SAYING SHCHARANSKY'S CASE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM AND OTHER MINISTERS, THAT THERE HAD BEEN MEETINGS ON THE MATTER, AND THAT "MINISTERS WHO MEET ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALL EQUAL." PM WANTED MRS. SHCHARANSKY TO UNDERSTAND THAT

HER EFFORTS TO SECURE MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL CAUCUS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN LEADING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE "ACTION IT CONSIDERS BEST TO ENSURE THE EVENTUAL SAFE FUTURE OF MR. SHCHARANSKY." IN CLOSING OUT THE EXCHANGE ON THIS TOPIC, MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM SAID TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO OFFER OF LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS OF MR. SHCHARANSKY IN CANADA.

3. COMMENT. MOTION PARA 1 WAS ADOPTED UNDER ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS, THE RULES FOR WHICH REQUIRE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF HOUSE (ROUTINELY REFUSED BY GOVERNMENT SIDE, PARTICULARLY WHEN PROPOSED BY MEMBER OF OPPOSITION) FOR A MOTION TO BE INTRODUCED. IN THIS CASE, GOVERNMENT WAS ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH IN ALLOWING MOTION TO BE INTRODUCED AND PASSED. TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS, MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM FELT IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT SUBSEQUENTLY THAT THE OFFER OF LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR MR. SHCHARANSKY HAD BEEN A GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE. AS THE MOTION CALLING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO REQUEST ATTENDANCE OF AN OFFICIAL OBSERVER AT SHCHARANSKY'S TRIAL WAS UNINTENTIONALLY ALLOWED TO BE PASSED AND AS TRUDEAU DID NOT INDICATE ANY WILLINGNESS TO GO BEYOND CURRENT GOC EFFORTS FOR MR. SHCHARANSKY, IT IS DOUBTFUL MOTION WILL BE ACTED UPON.

ENDERS

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